

NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NEBRASKA HOG INVENTORY DOWN 4 PERCENT

LINCOLN, Neb., March 24, 2005--Nebraska inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005, was 2.75 million head, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. This was 4 percent below March 1, 2004 and December 1, 2004, and the lowest inventory since March 1, 1976. Breeding inventory, at 355,000 head, was down 1 percent from March 1, 2004, but unchanged from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 2.4 million head, was 4 percent below last year and last quarter.

The December 2004-February 2005 Nebraska pig crop, at 1.58 million head, was 1 percent more than 2004 but unchanged from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 175,000 head, unchanged from last year.

Nebraska hog producers intend to have 175,000 sows farrow during the March-May 2005 quarter, unchanged from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2004 but down 5 percent from 2003. Intended farrowings for June-August 2005, at 175,000 sows, are unchanged from the same period in 2004 but down 5 percent from 2003.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005 was 59.9 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2004. Breeding inventory, at 5.94 million head, was down slightly from both March 1, 2004 and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.0 million head, was up 1 percent from last year but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The December 2004 - February 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was up 2 percent from 2004 and up 4 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, up 1 percent from last year.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrowed during the March-May 2005 quarter, unchanged from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2004 but 1 percent below 2003. Intended farrowings for June-August 2005, at 2.88 million sows, are down 1 percent from the same period in both 2004 and 2003.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/livestock/php-bb/2005/hgpg0305.pdf>

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